



Mrs. Florence Henry working on one of her new gravel art pieces.

Society's success story

Florence became totally blind at the age of nine. She was returning from school when a big dog jumped at her, causing the nerves of her eyes to collapse. She attended the State School for the Blind at Columbus where she learned rug weaving and for fourteen years she was self-employed as a rug weaver. She was married in Toledo and has a perfectly normal, beautiful daughter, Dawn, now 11 years of age.

Besides keeping a spotless and well-run house for her husband and daughter, she has been taking care of her invalid mother for the last five years.

She attended classes in ceramics and pottery at The Museum of Art and just participated for the third year in the Sylvania Outdoor Art exhibit on Sept. 20. She has displayed her artwork at the Wood County Fair, Fulton County Fair, Toledo Artists' Club, Miracle Mile and Great Eastern Shopping Centers and Hartman's Lobby in the Colony. When Hartman asked her to display her gravel art, he said it would be for one week but the public liked it so well that he kept it on display for six weeks. Her teacher and friend, Mr. Gerald Eldridge, has shown her gravel art in many places in Northwestern Ohio, Eastern Indiana, and in Michigan.

SOCIETY'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

- 1 Worker's Breakfast • Dining Room 7:20 a.m.
- 2 Bowling • Toledo Sports Center 6 p.m.
- 3 Children's Dance Class • 10 a.m.
- 4 Swimming • Catholic Club pool from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- 8 Singing Club • All Purpose Room 7 p.m.
- 8 Progressive Club • Dining & Rec. Rooms 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Bowling • Toledo Sports Center 6 p.m.
- 10 Children's Dance Class • 10 a.m.
- 15 Visual Service Guild • Dining Room 12:30 p.m.
- 16 Bowling • Toledo Sports Center 6 p.m.
- 17 Children's Dance Class • 10 a.m.
- 17 Card Club • Dining Room 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Parents Pre-school Blind • Dining Room 8 p.m.
- 21 Hobby Club • Low Vision Room 4 p.m.
- 21 Family Night Dinner • Rec. Room 6 p.m.
- 22 Progressive Club • Dining & Rec. Rooms 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Bowling • Toledo Sports Center 6 p.m.
- 24 Children's Dance Class • 10 a.m.
- 27 Happy Times • Recreation Room 1-3 p.m.
- 28 Open Social Club • Dining & Rec. Rooms 7 p.m.
- 30 Bowling • Toledo Sports Center 6 p.m.
- 31 Children's Dance Class • 10 a.m.

Now she is busy gathering material to publish a cookbook for the blind in Braille. Through her own efforts she earned and raised \$1,000 to purchase a Thermoform reproducing braille machine. She has put in Braille the recipes used by The Society in teaching cooking classes, and the music for the singing group.

She is a good seamstress and bowler. She and her husband are active in The Society's work and attend most of its functions.

Here is a story of a woman with will power, who did not let total blindness keep her from living a full and useful life. The Society is proud of Mrs. Henry.



Meet Cliff Warren

Although legally blind from birth, Cliff Warren is a licensed medical massagist.

Cliff Warren is one of the many persons that has used the State Services for the Blind to learn a profession. He is a licensed medical massagist employed by St. Vincent's Hospital.

Cliff attended Walbridge Elementary School Sight-Saving Classes, graduated from Libbey High School and attended Toledo University for one year.

Cliff was provided with work experience at The Society and then went to Cleveland for his professional training. He is married and the father of four children, he resides at 1315 Nebraska Ave.

Telephoned news



Effective, at once, you can dial CHerry 2-5181 between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. and have read to you a taped message of what is currently going on and what is new in the world of the Toledo blind. The first day of each month The Society issues a mimeographed bulletin entitled "Goings On" that is mailed to the blind and those interested in the blind. Volunteers read to the blind people, but they cannot be everywhere the first day of the month. News is often stale before the blind person gets it. This new telephone unit will give them the news immediately. A similar unit has been used by the Cleveland Society for some time, and has been very popular. The new unit costs \$400 and is a gift of the Downtown Lions Club.

The Toledo Society For The Blind NEWS

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

VOL 1 • NO. 2 • OCTOBER, 1964

COMMENTS FROM THE SOCIETY'S PRESIDENT

John Goerlich



How great is the need?

Estimates range from 400,000 Americans considered legally blind to nearly a million "functionally" blind who cannot read a newspaper with eye glasses.

The age factor

Of the total estimated legally blind persons in Ohio, about 78.6 per cent are over 40 years of age. A longer life span is the key factor in the continuing increase of blindness. Approximately 52 per cent of the blind population as a whole are 65 years of age and over.

Glaucoma is present in two out of every 100 persons past the age of 40.

The incidence of cataract to some extent for people age 60 is 60 per cent, and almost 100 per cent of the persons age 80 possess cataracts to some degree.

Blindness can happen to anyone. These Newsletters will give you a better understanding of what can be done for people with eye troubles, and will be helpful perhaps to someone dear to you.

John Goerlich

P. S. See Article at the right for layman's definition of legal blindness.

1964 Christmas cards

Enclosed are samples of the two cards we have this year. They are available immediately, with matching envelopes. You can order any number of cards you want, either without or with imprint up to three lines. If you prefer, there is space for your signature and a personal message. We do not charge or invoice you for the cards. You make a contribution to the Society for whatever amount you see fit and it is tax deductible. Our over-all costs, including imprinting and envelopes, is just a little more than ten cents a card. What you give us over ten cents is your contribution to our work. If you have a question as to what to send us, why not send us what you normally would pay for your cards.

Your gifts help us help the handicapped

We are a Red Feather Agency supported by the United Appeal. In this Newsletter we describe some of the many things we do with contributions over and above the money supplied us by the United Appeal. Some of these are: the Santa Claus party, work with the bowlers, card parties for the blind that we sponsor, monthly hot dinners for as many as 150 blind people and their families where we charge only fifty cents for a turkey dinner with all trimmings and desserts, picnics in the summer at the Zoo and Cedar Point, a week at Camp Yukita, and many other events too numerous to mention here. All of these activities require money. It is from contributions and legacies from friends of the blind that we get this money. Will you help us this year by using our cards? Our order blank is enclosed.

When you write your will, remember us. We are a non-profit organization, and no trustee receives any pay or expense money. One hundred per cent of what you give goes to help Toledo blind.

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What is legal blindness?

In layman's language, if a person can only identify at twenty feet what a person with normal vision can recognize at two hundred feet, or if his field of vision is so restricted that he can only see a small area at a time, then he is legally blind.



Santa and his helper giving presents to blind children

Santa Claus is coming to town for the blind.

Every year during the Christmas season the Society has a party for blind children up to fourteen years of age. Each blind child is given a gift furnished by the parents of the blind children's group. They affectionately refer to their Santa as the "Penny Santa Claus." Some years ago the Society started having a large bucket filled with more than 10,000 new pennies. Each child comes to Santa, who greets them and gives them their gift, and lets each child keep all the pennies he or she can take out of the bucket with one hand. For the very young, Santa gives them a minimum of a small paper cup of pennies. Last year the children took home over 8,000 pennies. Long tables were set up so the children could count their pennies. Although each blind child received a present from Santa, when Santa left practically no presents had been opened. Each child was counting and playing with their pennies. Of course, the money comes from the contributions we get.

Each year the Camp Fire Girls of Rogers High School furnish the flowers and cookies for this occasion, for which the Society is thankful. The Society has had trouble finding and keeping a Santa Claus because blind children affect some people. Maybe it would affect you, if you were Santa Claus, and a child on you lap asked you—as one did; "Santa, God forgot to give me eyes. Will you get me two?"

We now have the same Santa every year. Guess who he is. Many of you know him—he is a businessman.

Society teaches blind children how to type

In order to prepare parents with blind children so they can help their children in their studies, a group officially known as The Toledo Association of Parents of Blind Children has been formed. They represent thirty blind school age children that live in the Toledo area. The parents meet monthly at The Society. Many parents learn Braille so as to be able to help their children in learning



Paul Taraschke, 14, shown typing on the Perkins Braille Writer, lost his sight in the last year.

to read. The Society has provided \$300 for teachers and material for the classes.

Each child is given a typewriter whether or not he can afford it. Some have a Perkins Braille Writer which is about the size of a regular typewriter and others have a Banks Braille Writer which is a small Braille writer weighing less than a pound that can be carried by the student.

The Society has a room that contains books and records for the group. This Library contains over 75 different volumes of children's classics in Braille and Talking Book form. Parents and children can come at any time to pick up the books and/or records and The Society keeps track of them.

The Society also maintains a Perkins Braille Writer and Banks Braille Writer and a regular Royal typewriter used by the groups, plus a large-type Underwood typewriter for persons with limited vision.

Games in Braille of all kinds are also available to the children, such as; Checkers, Scrabble, Dominoes, Cross-word puzzles, to name a few.

Bowling is fun, even for the blind.



Larry Witt one of the regular bowlers lets go a pinbuster.

Yes, blind people bowl, and some of them bowl very well. Toledo Blind Bowlers League includes 25 men and women, blind and sighted, who meet Friday at the Sports Center on Starr and Raymer Aves. at 6:30 p.m. Bowling is for fun, not for competition. The Society furnishes transportation from The Society and to their homes after the meet.

Each year blind bowlers from all over the State of Ohio have an annual tournament. Next year it will be in Toledo the week of April 25. The president of the Ohio Bowlers' is Dick Henry and the vice president is Art Swaengen; both of whom work at The Society.

Toledo bowlers have won the Ohio Blind Championship three times in the last seven years. We are proud of them. Some of the scores are: Dick Henry—228, Russell Deehr—227, Dave LeFevre—205, John Swaengen—195, Patti Deehr—192, John Nameche—175, Virginia Stanley—155, Margie Lynn—140, Helen Johnson—140.

Last season Richard Henry had a 589 3-game series, Russell Deehr had a 551 3-game series, Dave LeFevre had a 512 3-game series, and John Swaengen and Pat Deehr, 503 and 501 3-game series respectively.

Homebound blind make, sell articles.

Some blind people who, because of age or other disability in addition to blindness, cannot come to The Society to work or participate in the activities. For these people we operate what we call our "Homebound Department."

The Society buys the materials, usually cloth, cuts it, delivers it to the Homebound, teaches them to sew, inspects finished work, sells, and gives the blind person all the money received, excluding the cost of materials.

The Society used to make about twenty items. This was uneconomic. Materials could not be bought in large enough quantities to get the lowest price; too much inventory was carried of new and finished goods and training the blind to make this broad a line took too long. In 1959, The Society changed operations and did what they are now doing. They made a contract with The Cleveland Society for the Blind under which they operate under the National Skilcraft Laboratory. Skilcraft is a national non-profit organization which creates and supervises the manufacture of products made by blind people all over the United States. All Skilcraft merchandise is manufactured under strict standards and is fully guaranteed for workmanship and materials. The Society now manufactures six items, buys about 100 items, and sells a line of 114 items rather than 20. Every item is made by blind people. These products are sold not only in Toledo but throughout Ohio. In the Toledo area sales are handled by Marvin Crosby (EVergreen 5-1841). It is the solicitors of Crosby who phone you and offer you blind-made merchandise.

The price to Crosby and his price to you is determined by The National Skilcraft organization. All salespeople work under a strict code of ethics and are supervised by Skilcraft. The Society cannot compete with large manufacturers who make or bleach their own cloth, produce in big volume in modern plants with modern machinery, and sell in large quantities to big department and chain stores. The Society's unit of sales is small and the operation is costly because they manufacture by hand, sell and deliver small orders. Sometimes two or three trips are made to deliver.

Mrs. Hermina Zaborowski shows clothespin bag, one of many articles, made by the blind.



Of course, Crosby must have a mark-up in order to cover costs of warehousing, telephone solicitors, order filling clerks and delivery people. For those who prefer to buy direct from The Society, Canton and Southard Sts., there are different types of merchandise which you can inspect, buy and take with you. In this case the profit goes to The Society and is used to help blind people. Our prices at The Society are the same as Crosby's. You are invited to visit The Society anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on week days, except Saturday.

The Homebound operation is financed entirely by the United Appeal. One supervisor can handle about 22 Homebounds. Generally The Blind Societies in Ohio have discontinued Homebound work because it is expensive. The Toledo Society however, believes these crippled or elderly people, mostly women, need outside contact. When the supervisor calls on them they chitchat, maybe have a cup of tea, and this brings the outside world to the person who is homebound. The Society is considering adding another supervisor and purchasing a station wagon. This will require an investment of thousands of dollars, and the expense would run about \$3,600 annually. Here is a project that might be supported by some individual, company, corporation, sorority or other group. Anyone interested should contact the Executive Director of The Society, Lyle Kirk, at CHerry 3-8239.

Uses sewing specialty for the Society



Mrs. Zaborowski watches as Mrs. Gonja sews one of the Society's ironing board covers.

Mrs. Lola Gonja is one of the persons that participates in the Home Industries Program of the Society.

She is a sewing machine operator, specializing in ironing board covers, basket and cart liners, clothes pin bags, aprons, mangle covers. She has been sewing about ten years.

Mrs. Gonja, who has been blind from birth, came to Toledo from West Virginia. She was employed at the old St. John's Coal Company where she learned the technique of selling over the telephone.

She now calls the members of the Toledo Advertising Club of the Monday Compass Group to remind them of their meetings.

She is active in The Society and attends most of their functions.